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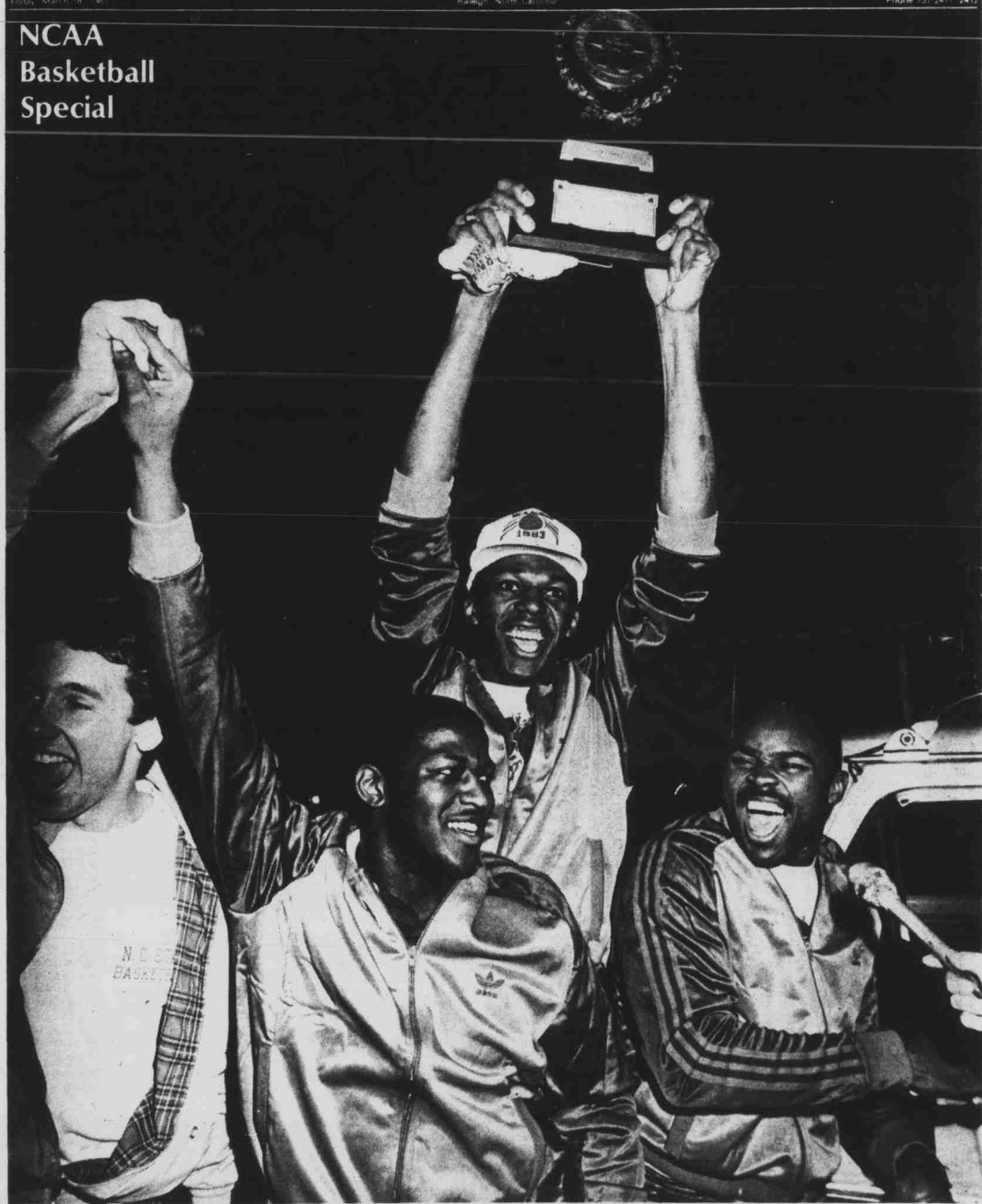
North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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NCAA Basketball Special



Pack looks to splash Waves

State coach Jim Valvano began a press conference Tuesday afternoon by pointing out an "incredible" coincidence involving a statement he made about Pepperdine, his team's first-round opponent in the NCAA Tournament tonight at Corvallis, Ore.

The Pack mentor, 48 hours after his team captured the ACC Championship, brought with him a January 6 *Durham Morning Herald*, handed to him by a sportswriter. From it, Valvano read an article about the video craze and the use of TV video recorders.

Valvano quoted statements he made in the story: "ESPN, the 24-hour sports network, televised 44 college games this month alone, the major reason coaches are staying home to scout. Because of those games on television, it is a much more respectable level of ball around the country."

Coach V. continued: "In the past, would Fresno State be considered to be that good? They're a good, good team. I saw Pepperdine the other day. Whew! I would not like to play Pepperdine at Pepperdine. Absolutely incredible."

A sea of laughter filled the air. Valvano continued reading, quoting the writer, Ron Morris: "Should State have to play Pepperdine in the NCAA Tournament, however, Valvano is sure to have at least one tape of a Waves' game."

"The fact of the matter is that that was probably the only game we did not tape."

The game Valvano watched was against nationally No. 1-ranked Houston, which nipped Pepperdine, 93-92. He added that

the film sent to him from the West Coast school was the game against Houston.

State's opener against Pepperdine in the West Regional is scheduled for 8:40 p.m. PST (11:40 p.m. EST) and will be televised nationally by CBS. WTVU-CA, 11 will carry the game in the Triangle area.

The Waves, 20-8, have won the West Coast Athletic Conference title for the third straight year. They have met the Wolfpack just once, in the 1978 Alaska Shootout in Anchorage. State won, 91-63, and went on to defeat Louisville, 72-66, to take the title.

"We're looking forward to a close game," said Valvano, whose team moved into the elite Top 20 (16th AP, 14th UPI Coaches' Poll) after its Cinderella weekend in Atlanta. "I hope to learn a lot more about them as the week progresses. In my 16 years as a head coach, I have never played Pepperdine. I have gone against Nevada-Las Vegas (State's next opponent if it wins Friday) one time while I was at Iona. We lost by a point in Vegas. It really was an excellent game."

"Tark (Vegas coach Jerry Tarkanian) has become a good friend through the relationship we've had on a number of trips. I enjoy playing his teams. They're always tough and are very well-coached."

The Runnin' Rebels, 22-8, held the No. 1 position earlier and are ranked sixth in both polls. They have never met State on the hardwood.

The Waves will have the upper-hand in experience, but the Pack will have a definite

height advantage. Pepperdine starts three seniors and two juniors, while State starts three seniors and two sophomores.

Getting the nod for the Waves will be 6-8 Dane Shuttle (23.7 ppg), 6-7 Orlando Phillips (20.3), and 6-6 Bill Sadler (13.6), the seniors, and 6-2 Mark Wilson (5.9) and 6-8 Victor Anger (10.3), the juniors.

"They're very similar to playing UCLA in terms of preparing for them," said Valvano. "They run the same high-low post offense, they run a 2-2-1 press back into a pressure man-to-man and they up-tempo the game."

"We've played a number of teams that way this year. Louisville plays the same way. Why we all know Dana Kirk was an assistant at UCLA. Memphis State plays that way. Why, we know Dana Kirk was an assistant at Louisville. (Pepperdine coach) Jim Harrick's teams play that way because he was also an assistant at UCLA under (Billy) Cunningham."

Harrick noted that although his team is accustomed to playing a running style, it is capable of a slower tempo.

"We're an up-tempo team, but we play all types of game," he said. "Mark Wilson has been out of the lineup four different times with various injuries and illnesses. That has provided for some inconsistencies. We've lost three games by one point."

Harrick disclosed his possible matchups against the Wolfpack, including Wilson on Sidney Lowe, Suttle on Derek Whittenburg, Phillips on Lorenzo Charles, Sadler on Cozell McQueen and Anger on Thurl Bailey.

"We run a full-court 2-2-1 press much of the time, and it has been effective at times," Harrick said. "We will most definitely use it against State. I like a clock, but we're not a racehorse team."

The Pack has had its share of slower games this season, most notably against Michigan State, Misouri, Memphis State and Notre Dame. State won just one of those games.

"I have no idea to believe that it will be a slow game," said Valvano. "We're certainly not, after playing all year with a clock, all of a sudden try and go back to a slower style. I think our inside game will show up more in this type of game than a clock game."

Without the ACC rules, however, Valvano is afraid that his team may get behind, which it did in several of its non-league losses.

"My nightmare is that there's no clock, there's no three-point shot, we get into a little, say, foul trouble inside, and we have a poor outside game," he said. "Then, we'll play catchup the rest of the night."

The State coach compares the Waves to Wake Forest, noting their physical ability and speedy offense.

"The thing that concerns me is that they're so active inside," said Valvano. "They can really put it on the floor and dish off. That means that they're also a



Staff photo by William Terry Kelley

Out of Bounds

DEVIN STEELE



Assistant Sports Editor

very good man-to-man club. They're stronger (physically) than Wake Forest. They're that kind of a team. They're the Kenny Green, Alvis Rogers type players. They're not huge, but they're quick, can go to the boards, can shoot it pretty good and can cause you all kinds of problems. We don't want to get behind them."

Does Valvano think the Wolfpack has come down to earth yet, after its emotional ACC weekend, which saw his team win three nail-biters en route to the championship?

"Yes and no," he said. "Yes because at 4:30 we will go back to practice, and no because we had a great, great experience winning the tournament. No, we haven't come down, and I don't expect us to come down for quite some time."

After being asked if his ACC title victory was his greatest as a coach, Valvano replied that his Johns Hopkins' win over Swathmore was Tuesday, after 48 hours of absorption, he said he had changed his mind.

"Winning the ACC Championship for me, I can say now, was bigger than my Johns Hopkins' win against Swathmore," he said. "On second thought, my wife and I decided, that this did have a little more input. But it was a close second. I made a lot better coaching moves in the Hopkins-Swathmore game, if I recall. I remember putting in the gynecologist for the pediatrician at one point, which helped us greatly."

The Wolfpack, making its second consecutive trip to the

NCAA Tournament under Valvano, lost a 58-51 decision to UT-Chattanooga in the first round. Valvano believes this year's team will be better prepared for the event.

"Last year, I'll be honest with you, I packed one suit," he said. "We were happy to be in Indianapolis, and we were looking around a little bit. There wasn't a lot of intensity and enthusiasm in my first NCAA Tournament with this team. We were just happy to be there, and we didn't play well."

"This year, I think we can do some damage. I honestly think this ballclub wants to go out there and win a few games. I feel if we win the first, we'll get better each night out."

Should the Pack get by Pepperdine, it will be faced with the task of stacking up against UNLV and, possibly, UCLA and Virginia. All three were the nation's No. 1 team at one time or another, and make for what may be the toughest bracket to get out of.

Valvano has directed four of his last five teams to the NCAA playoffs. His string of successes started at Iona, where the Gaels qualified for both the 1979 and '80 tournaments. His off-year was his first year as coach of the Pack, which finished 14-13.

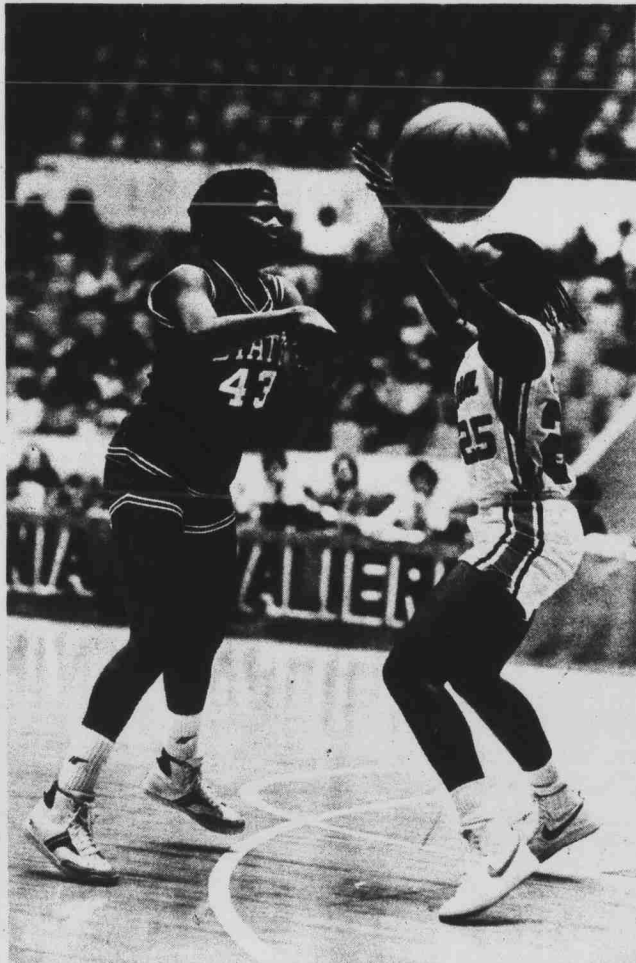
Has Coach V. ever been to Oregon?

"Sure I have. I'm a basketball coach. I get around. I've been all the way to Fuquay-Varina and may be going to Utah (should State win its first two games). Remember, no dancing, no coke and no smoking (in Utah)."



Women need fans in NCAA opener

by Tom DeSchriver
Sports Writer



Hawkeye sees home just a victory away, via Penn State:

Staff photo by Drew Armstrong

When State's 16th-ranked women's basketball team hosts 10th-ranked Penn State Saturday night at 7:30 in Reynolds Coliseum in the first round of the NCAA tournament, the NCAA will be watching not only the winner of that game but also the crowd.

The NCAA will be evaluating the crowd to determine whether the Pack will be considered in the future to host NCAA women's tournament games.

The actions of the crowd will not be the determining factor — the number of loud and crazy Wolfpack fans will be the question.

A crowd of 3,000 to 4,000 would keep the Wolfpack in the NCAA's good graces, according to assistant sports information director Sarah Sue Ingram.

With the men's team playing out in Corvallis, Ore., Friday night, hoop-crazed Wolfpack fans can unleash their pent up energies Saturday night in cheering for sharpshooting Linda Page and the gang.

Page looks upon Saturday's game as not only a chance to continue on in the NCAA, but a chance to return to her home state of Pennsylvania.

Should the Pack defeat Penn State, the Pack would then travel to Penn State and play in the NCAA Eastern Regionals. This ironic twist gives Penn State the incentive of knowing that if it beats the Pack, it would return home in its quest for a trip to the Women's Final Four.

Page, who played scholastic basketball in Philadelphia, admits that the chance to return to the Keystone State gives her an extra ounce of adrenalin for Saturday's game.

"The chance to go back to Pennsylvania gives me extra incentive," Page says. "People down on my end of the state never get to see me play. They'd come up to see me if our team played at Penn State."

Page is the Pack's leading scorer, pouring in 22.9 points per game, and leads the team in rebounds with 7.7 per contest.

Page is at her best in big games as evidenced by her 33.3 ppg average in the recent ACC tournament, in which she was named co-Most Valuable Player.

Page also finished the regular season second in the nation in free throw percentage, hitting 109 of 120 for a .908 percentage.

Page won't be the only super soph on stage Saturday night, though. Penn State also possesses a second-year player who can put the ball in the hoop.

Kahadejah Herbert is the Lady Lion's main gun, leading the team in scoring and rebounding. Herbert averaged 16.2 ppg and 8.4 rebounds this season.

Like Page, Herbert was MVP in her conference (Atlantic 10) tournament.

In a game filled with irony, Page and Herbert played within minutes of each other in high school but know little about each other as Herbert went to school in Willingboro, N. J., which is across the Delaware River from Philadelphia.

Both players were named to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* all-area team in high school, but this will be the first time the two have clashed.

"I've heard of her, but because we were from different states, I never played against her," Page says.

Page and Herbert may lead their respective teams, but the chance of a head-to-head confrontation is unlikely because Herbert is a 6-3 center, while at 5-10, Page is a swing player.

For the Pack, seniors Angie Armstrong, Sherry Lawson and Karen Brabson will be making their final home appearance in Red and White.

Armstrong was named to the all-ACC Tournament team with Page and needs only 39 points to move into fourth on the all-time scoring list in Wolfpack history.

The winner of Saturday's game will play Cheyney State or the winner of the Dartmouth-Monmouth game Thursday, March 24, in the semifinals of the Eastern Regional.

Cheyney State was the runner-up in last year's NCAA tournament and knocked the Pack out of the tournament last year in the Eastern Regionals semi-finals held in Raleigh.

Tournament play can bring out the best in teams as witnessed by the play of both Wolfpack teams in their respective tournaments, and Saturday's women's game promises to showcase two of the finest teams in the nation, along with two of the most touted underclassmen in the country.

Tickets for Saturday's game are \$2 for students and \$4 for adults and a numerous, loud and boisterous crowd could insure the Pack further NCAA Tournament games held in the friendly confines of Reynolds Coliseum.

Valvano's empire falls, rises

State Sports Information

Perhaps State's 1982-83 basketball season can best be described as the rise and the fall of the Jim Valvano empire. Fortunately for the enthusiastic Wolfpack coach, the chronology was reversed.

The fall came first. After the early edition of the Wolfpack jumped out to a 7-1 record and a ranking as high as 12th in the country, State fell upon hard times when leading scorer Derek Whittenburg fell on Virginia guard Othell Wilson's foot Jan. 12 and broke his own foot just past intermission. He

had scored a phenomenal 27 points in the first half.

Suddenly, one-third of the isosceles triangle of seniors Thurl Bailey, Sidney Lowe and Whittenburg was missing. When Whittenburg went out of the lineup, State went out of the polls, losing five of the next six games. But those defeats were to nationally-ranked Missouri, Virginia, North Carolina and Memphis State, tough foes even when a team is full-force.

With the veteran trio, this was supposed to be State's year, but that stretch of losses started the doubts... until the Wolfpack won eight of its next 10 games,

including a stunning 70-63 upset of third-ranked North Carolina Feb. 16. That upset very well may have been the turning point of the season.

State won that game without Whittenburg. The Wolfpack had regrouped. Lowe and Bailey never played better. The sophomores — Terry Gannon, Lorenzo Charles and Cozell McQueen — matured ahead of schedule, and freshman Ernie Myers, Whittenburg's replacement, contributed 15.1 points per game.

Gannon dazzled the crowds (see 'Whittenburg's' page 7)

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Topic: Cancer Research

Seniors look to add finishing touches to Final Four final target for Wolfpack Women seniors

by Tom DeSchriver
Sports Writer

Tournament time in basketball is the most exciting time of the year; the best teams come to the top, and the best games of the season are played.

The Wolfpack Women play in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament this weekend and hope to advance to the Eastern Regionals with a win over Penn State Saturday night at 7:30 in the first round.

Around the Wolfpack camp, the excitement of tournament time can be felt, but there is also an underlying sense of sadness. The Wolfpack players know that the careers of three of their teammates — Angie Armstrong, Sherry Lawson and Karen Brabson — are coming to a close.

The three seniors represent a cause — to go as far as possible. If that sounds vague, it is. While this team has beaten such powers as Maryland (twice), Rutgers and North Carolina, it has also lost to Francis Marion (at Reynolds) and Tennessee

Tech; therefore, a caution.

"I think we can get to the Final Four," Lawson said. "We have to keep playing tough defense and good offense. We have good balance."

The Pack had won six straight games going into the ACC Women's Tournament and took wins over Wake Forest and Clemson before falling to Maryland 84-81 in the finals, so a guarded confidence exudes from this team.

Lawson starts at the big guard position, and when asked her feelings about her four-year term at State coming to a close she said, "Sad, real sad."

This season, Lawson averages 5.9 points per game and 2.4 rebounds per contest and has missed only one game in her four years at State.

Lawson will finish her career seventh on the alltime assists list with 229 and tenth on the career list in steals with 72.

Lawson's career at State has been one of constant change. She has played point guard, wing and forward.

"Sherry has played well considering how many things we have asked her to do," Yow said. Lawson's career has been termed consistent, but has been overshadowed by the flashy Armstrong.

Armstrong ends her career at State as the all-time leader in assists with 587 and has been playing the best ball of her career in recent weeks. Lawson knows the value of her running mate at guard.

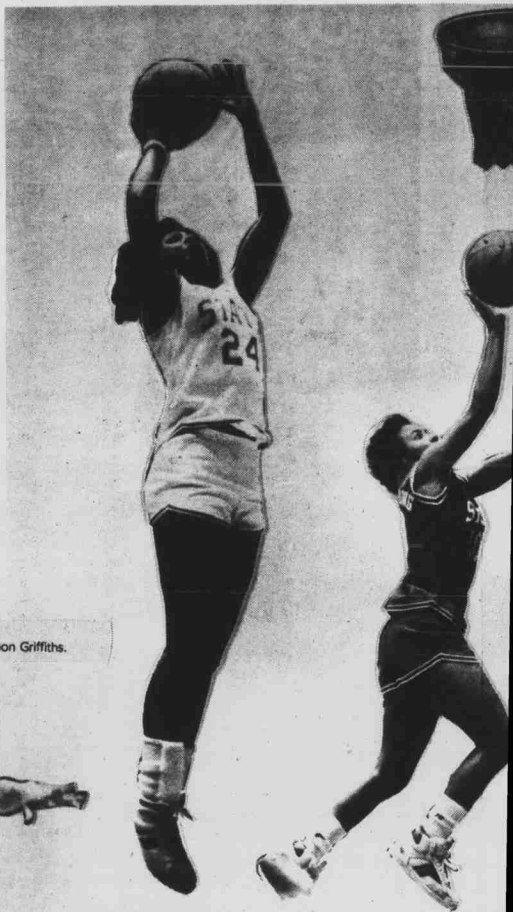
"I look to Angie for a lot of confidence," Lawson said. "She sets the team up, and she puts a spark in us."

Armstrong currently ranks fifth on the all-time scoring list with 1,269 points and could pass Cristy Earnhardt for fourth place by scoring 90 points in tournament play.

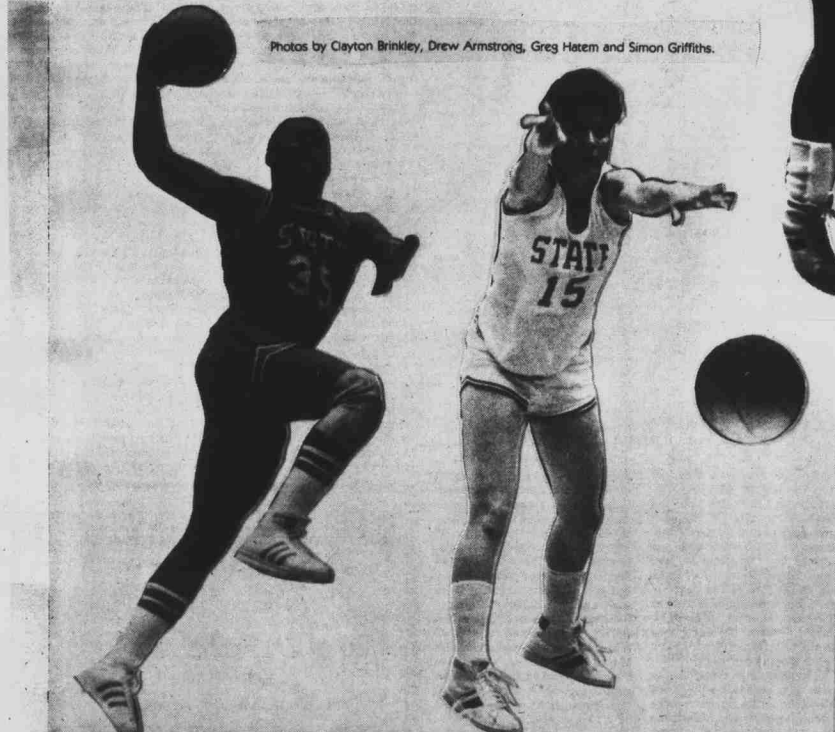
In the month of February, Armstrong dominated games from her point guard spot, and Yow couldn't be happier.

"It pleased me to see Angie taking control," Yow said. "She'll be missed next year, because

(see 'State' page 6)



Photos by Clayton Brinkley, Drew Armstrong, Greg Hatem and Simon Griffiths.



careers after finishing four full seasons

Men cagers stocked with senior leaders

by Devin Steele
Assistant Sports Editor

One of the biggest factors in a college basketball team's success is, of course, senior leadership. State's men's basketball team has been fortunate enough to be blessed with those traits of seniority and the type of guidance it takes to reach seemingly impossible goals. By the direction of seniors Thurl Bailey, Sidney Lowe and Derek Whittenburg, the Wolfpack, in a valiant effort, climbed the vigorous ladder to the ACC crown — a first for the senior trio. The Pack also earned respect in the national circles once again, moving into the elite Top 20.

Now, the three seniors are looking for another first — to win an NCAA tourney game. Three times they have visited the national event in their four years in Red and White. Three times they have been knocked out in the first round. With Whit, Sid and Thurl, State did actually get past the first round once, in 1980, but was placed in the second round by a bye.

The seniors will get one last shot at advancement in the national tourney tonight when the Pack meets WCAC champ Pepperdine in Corvallis, Ore. Upsetting national juggernauts North Carolina and Virginia and capturing the league title may seem like the peak, the end of the line, for the emotionally-drained Wolfpack. These players don't think that way, though.

"We were at a high emotional, but now the party's over," said Whittenburg, who led State to its comeback win over the Tar Heels by scoring 11 points in overtime.

Bailey, a first-team all-tourney pick, took a slightly different attitude about the highs and lows involved after such a storybook showing: "I don't know if we necessarily have to come down going into the tournament because I really think that win from the ACC Tournament will help us," he said. "Like the paper in Atlanta said, we reached our peak at the right time. We're just going to take it from where we peaked and go from there."

Although neither senior has seen Pepperdine play this year, they've heard that the Waves' are an up-tempo team. And each one approves.

"I know they like to get up and down the court," said Lowe, who has played with two of the Waves players in Larry Anderson and Sidney Green. "That's the way we play best. We've done it so long, and it's been effective for us. But we're going to go out and play our game and not worry about what the other guy does. We want to try to make them rush things."

Running doesn't concern the seniors. Neither does reverting back to the old NCAA rules,

where the Wolfpack has had some problems this season in games with Missouri, Louisville, Memphis State and Notre Dame.

"I'm not really concerned about it [the rules' change]," said Whit. "The only thing it will change is some situations in the game. I think we can adjust to that. Generally, when I take those three-pointers, they're natural, they're my shots. Now, I don't have to worry about the line. I'll take anything if I'm open."

Lowe added: "With the clock, we don't have to press as much. We'll put more pressure on the man half-court."

"If the shot is there, we're going to take it. Obviously, if we hit it for three in the ACC, we can hit it for two this time. It's still a basket. We can't say, 'well, it's not counting for three, so we can't take that.' We can make them, so why not take them?"

Bailey's biggest concern is getting behind against teams like Pepperdine and Nevada-Las Vegas, State's next opponent if it gets by the Waves.

"During the course of the season, we had to go back to the old style," he said. "We didn't make the adjustment that well in some games. We got behind and ended up playing catch-up."

"But our experience has made us that much better. Guys like Lorenzo (Charles) and Cozell (McQueen) love to play without the rules because they have time to post down low, and they don't have to run the transition all the time."

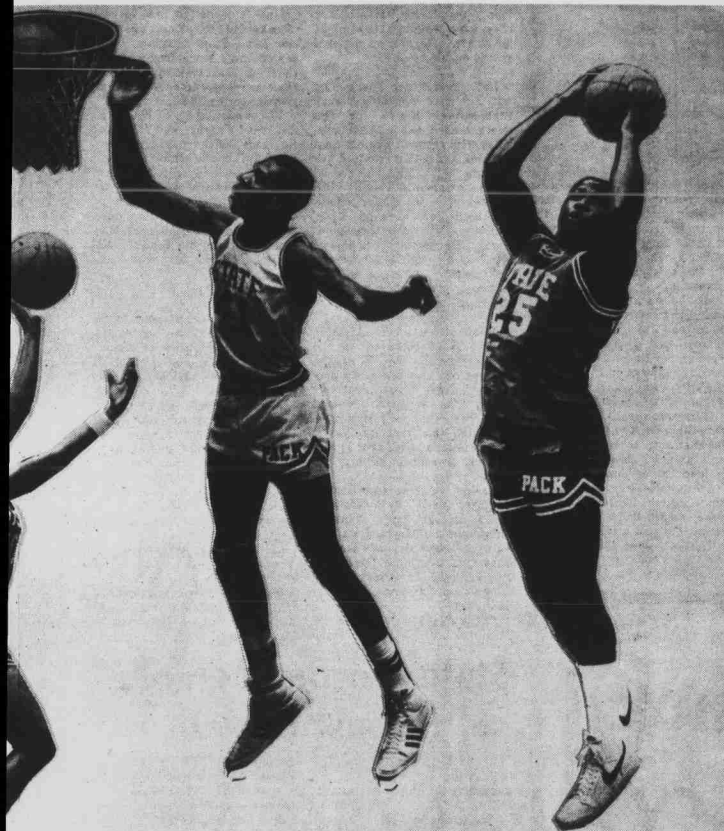
The trio agrees that last year's NCAA Tournament experience will benefit the Wolfpack this time out.

"Last year, we came out tense," said Bailey, whose team dropped a 58-51 game to UT-Chattanooga in the first round. "I think when we got to Indiana, we just said we're here. We didn't play the way we should have to win. I think the same thing happened to Chattanooga two years ago. This year, we're older and more experienced. I think we'll come out loose and comfortable."

Though State has proven itself a worthy challenger, Bailey said it will be tough for the team to prove that it's no fluke.

"People are going to believe what they want to," he said. "There's really nothing you can do about that. Even if we keep winning and winning, people are gonna say, 'State's really lucky this year,' or come up with some excuse other than we're a good ballclub."

Sidney, Derek and Thurl have already helped the team's reputation, scoring all doubt. All three are playing the best basketball of their lives, even Derek, who says he is 100 percent well after the ankle injury. Now, it's off to the West Coast to rack up some lost respect and NCAA victories.



Ralph's, Cavs' talk of dirty ball filthy

Sports As I See It

**BRUCE
WINKWORTH**



Assistant Sports Editor

A decade ago, State's basketball team capped a truly incredible season by winning the ACC Basketball Tournament. The 1972-73 Wolfpack finished the season with a 27-0 record, the conference championship and a No. 2 ranking in the national polls.

That was the end of the line for the 1973 edition of the Wolfpack, however. Because of overzealous recruiting of superstar David Thompson, State was on NCAA probation that year, and the dream match between the nation's two unbeaten teams, State and UCLA, had to wait until 1974.

This year's Wolfpack didn't have anything close to an unbeaten season, but it did win the ACC Tournament in inspiring fashion, and it is not on probation. The Wolfpack's thrilling ride to the 1983 ACC title

assured it of a trip to the NCAA Tournament. After that loss to Maryland two weeks ago, who'd have thought the Pack would actually be going to the NCAA's?

Much has been written this week about the constant whining and complaining on the part of Ralph Sampson and the Virginia basketball team at the ACC Tournament, something I've felt they've done all along. I'm not very good at reading lips, but anyone can tell that Ralph Sampson's constant mouth movement doesn't come from chewing gum.

For a guy who seems to talk a lot of trash and throw more than his fair share of elbows, Sampson sure doesn't get chastised when it comes time to complain about other people playing dirty. He whined and pouted about Duke's play in the first round of the tournament, and according to

several State players, he ran his mouth constantly and even took a swing at Alvin Battle in the finals. Imagine the audacity of Battle, taking a rebound away from poor Ralphie.

I said this once before, but I'm gonna say it again. If Ralph thinks he has it bad in the ACC, where the referees protect him more than any player in league history, wait until he takes his whining act to the NBA. In the pros, it's always open season on rookies, especially rookie centers with big mouths.

If Sampson really said he had something for Alvin Battle in the Tournament, as was reported, wait until he sees what Moses Malone has for him.

The whole Virginia team is at fault, though. Every time a call goes against them, the players pound the ball to the floor and try to stare down the officials. If

they'd spent as much of the last four years playing basketball as they have whining, they might have won a league or national championship by now.

Let's hear it for Terry Gannon, the man who struck such tremendous blows for the average-sized man in the tournament. His rebound against Sam Perkins, a play that resulted in a Perkins foul, and his steal against Sampson were both critical plays at critical times, and both plays were as important as any of the three-point baskets Gannon made. In a game dominated by giants, it's nice to see someone of more or less average physical dimensions figure in such pivotal plays.

While all the media attention seems to be centered on the men's squad, the Wolfpack Women are also beginning play in the NCAA Tournament this week. The Wolfpack Women have been especially enjoyable to watch this year because it seems to be a squad that is continually reaching beyond its limits.

Basing its game approach on defense, Coach Kay Yow's club came of age in a January showdown at Maryland and the Pack has been playing excellent basketball ever since. Defensively, this is one of the best clubs in Yow's tenure at State, if not the best ever.

Offensively, it took the Wolfpack until the late stages of

the season to find the scoring balance it needed to keep teams from keying on sophomore sensation Linda Page; but now, with senior Angie Armstrong playing the best basketball of her life, the team seems to have found a proper scoring blend.

The women open NCAA play Saturday night at 7:30 in Reynolds Coliseum against Penn State. It is the last time three excellent seniors will play at Reynolds. Armstrong, Sherry Lawson and Karen Brabson will all be making their final appearances on their home floor, but hopefully they will continue to play basketball for the next several weeks.

The Wolfpack Women have already wrapped up their recruiting season with what may be the finest recruited class in the program's history. Commitments have been received from five players, all of whom are very highly regarded, and three of whom are all-Americans.

Kim Taylor, 6-3, from Rocky Mount, Angela Daye, 6-2, from Pendleton and Annemarie Treadway, 5-9, from Greensboro were all listed on *Street & Smith's* pre-season high school all-America team.

Joining those three are 6-3 Treva Trice and 5-6 Carla Hillman, both of Chesapeake, Virginia. The five form a unit with a point guard, a wing guard, a wing forward, a power forward and a center.

State women seniors set for last hurrah

(continued from page 4)

she's been playing so aggressively.

Armstrong will also close out her career as the all-time steals leader with 287.

Never one to look back on a breakaway layup, Armstrong wished she had more playing time at State.

"So far I've enjoyed all my years at State," Armstrong said. "I regret that I don't have another. With all the talent we have, I wish I had another year."

A true Red and White fan, Armstrong points to the North Carolina series as the source of her finest moments at State.

"My biggest thrill was getting my career high against (North) Carolina," Armstrong said. "Anytime we do anything against UNC, that stands out."

As a senior, Armstrong realizes her role as a leader, and she and the other seniors try to help the younger players through the tougher times.

"We try to show them leadership," Armstrong said. "We have confidence in them, so they'll have confidence in themselves. We try to give them a helping hand."

Armstrong's major is criminal justice, and next January she will enter the Army as a second lieutenant, which she has earned

through the ROTC program at State.

Armstrong thinks that this team has a lot more basketball yet to play.

"I think we can go all the way," Armstrong said. "We have the inside and outside game. We can shoot, and I think we can go all the way."

Armstrong lauds the play of her fellow seniors.

"They're playing super," Armstrong said. "Karen is a good rebounder. They keep hustling, and they want to be successful."

At 5'9", Brabson jumps well and has excellent quickness, which has helped her steal the ball 87 times to rank ninth on the all-time list.

Because of the number of quality players on the team, Brabson's playing time has been reduced. But the speech communications major has been part of a bench that goes six deep for Yow.

Brabson also thinks this team has a shot at the Final Four, and she also is sad that her four years are over so quickly.

For Brabson, Armstrong and Lawson the tournament is their last hurrah, and Yow speaks constantly of her seniors when she talks of tournament time.

"For the seniors, this is it," Yow said. "We're going down the stretch for them. They are ready."

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Charles muscles way to limelight

by Scott Keepler
Sports Writer

State's climb to the top of the ACC during last week's ACC Tournament produced several heroes as well as a number of individual plays that are sure to repeat themselves in many a Wolfpack fan's memory for years to come.

Few of us will soon forget Derek Whittenburg's basket off a daring baseline drive that gave State a one-point lead over the Tar Heels with 55 seconds left in overtime. Or Terry Gannon's now-famous steal from Ralph Sampson with 35 seconds to go against Virginia in the title game.

But these moments, and the victories that soon followed, might never have been possible if not for another hero in his own right — Lorenzo Charles.

State's 6-7, 225-pound musclemán sank the winning free throw against Wake Forest in the tourney's opening round, enabling the Pack to advance and eventually capture its first ACC title since 1974.

But, in setting a norm for the remainder of the tournament, Charles made the the Wolfpack fans sweat out the victory. Lo' bounced his first shot off the front of the rim, and it seemed that a second straight win over the Deacs just might not be in the cards. But Charles shook the fitters, and a second later State was celebrating a 71-70 victory.

"It was a routine free-throw," Charles said. "Just like in practice."

Unfortunately for Carl Tacy's squad, this one counted. Soon after, the Deacons were making an early departure from Atlanta.

Charles, a sophomore from Brooklyn, N.Y., emerged as one of the ACC's premier forwards during the latter part of the season. This year's final 10 games saw Charles score 106 points and grab 77 rebounds. In contrast, Charles had totalled only 107 points and 91 caroms in the Pack's first 20 contests. Newfound confidence seemed to bolster Lo's performance every time he stepped on the court.

"I think I'm playing my best ball right now," Charles said. "Lately, they've been getting the ball to me because I've been producing. If I get the ball and there's two men on me, I'll look for the open man, but if there's one man on me, I'm going to the basket."

Wolfpack head coach Jim Valvano was quick to recognize Charles' improvement and thinks Lo' really caught fire soon after the injury to Whittenburg. "If any good came out of the injury to Derek Whittenburg, it was the emergence of Lorenzo Charles," Valvano said.

Charles produced the most when it counted the most, notching his best single-game outputs against State's toughest competition. These included a nine-point, six-rebound performance versus Louisville, 10-points and five rebounds against Missouri and an 11-point, nine-rebound effort against Memphis State.

But Charles saved his last hurrah for the ACC Tournament. In the Pack's three victories, Lo' established new career highs for both points and rebounds. Displaying quickness and brute strength under the net, Charles cleared 12 rebounds against Wake, and another dozen in the championship showdown with Virginia. His career scoring high came in Saturday's semi-final, when he repeatedly challenged the Tar Heels inside, and came away with 16 points.

Final tourney statistics credited Charles with 32 points and 32 rebounds, giving him a three-day average of 10.7 in both categories. Lo's performance earned him second-team all-Tournament honors.

Charles has now established himself as a powering force in State's starting lineup. Going in to Friday's NCAA first-round game with Pepperdine, he is the team's most accurate shooter from the floor, having hit on 82 of 154 attempts for a 53.2 percentage. Charles, who has played in every game this season, is also second on the team in rebounding with 163 — an average of 5.4 per game.



Staff photo by Greg Heterm

Lo's newfound confidence has enabled him to muscle his way inside against even the biggest men.

Whittenburg's return caps rise

(continued from page 3)

with his "downtown" range, hitting 53 of 90 attempts from beyond the three-point line in the ACC's first year under the new rules (three-point play and 30-second clock). Charles answered the need for a power forward who could muscle inside, and McQueen, averaging only three rebounds a game before the infamous "footfall," lifted his average to 7.1.

The Wolfpack was on the rise, and there was only one thing that could give State a greater high — the return of Whittenburg. The word came Feb. 21 — he would be back.

He returned Feb. 27 at Virginia, less than 70 percent, and the Pack fell, 86-75. State lost its next game too, 67-58 to Maryland, but the team was get-

ting stronger. Finally, on March 5, State put it all together — scoring 130 points (the highest point production by a collegiate team this year) against Wake Forest to wrap up a tie for third place with Maryland in the ACC regular season.

That was just the beginning. The next rise was nothing short of meteoric.

State slipped by Wake 71-70 in the first round of the prestigious ACC Tournament and then knocked off No. 5-ranked North Carolina, in overtime, and No. 2-ranked Virginia, 81-78, to win the coveted crown — the school's first ACC title since the 1974 NCAA National Championship team.

Bailey, who needs just 11 points to move into 12th place on the all-time scoring list; Whittenburg, who hit the winning basket

against North Carolina and the clutch free throws against Virginia; and Lowe, who became only the second ACC player in history to reach the 700 mark in assists (UNC's Phil Ford had 753) with 717, were all named to the all-ACC Tournament team. Lowe earned the coveted Everett Case Award as the tournament MVP.

Lowe and Bailey were also named to first team all-ACC with North Carolina's Sam Perkins and Michael Jordan and Virginia's Ralph Sampson, but the regular-season honors seemed almost overshadowed by the all-tournament domination.

The "triangle" was back, and with the NCAA Tournament ahead, the Pack is again on the rise and optimistic.

After all, they figure they've already had their fall.

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Gannon's role means more than 3 points

by Scott Keepler
Sports Writer

Amidst all the ebullience and mass celebration following State's 130-89 crushing of Wake Forest two Saturdays ago, a towel-clad Terry Gannon answered reporter's questions with the same ease and smoothness he had exhibited on the court moments before. And although the game was an unforgettable Reynold's Coliseum finale for the Pack's four seniors, it was also an indicator of things to come for one soft-spoken 6-0 guard.

In only 24 minutes of playing time, No. 24 single-handedly bombed the Deacons into submission. With six minutes gone in the first half and State up by one at 15-14, Gannon entered the contest to relieve Derek Whittenburg. The super sophomore responded by sinking four straight three-pointers, and before the vocal crowd of 10,600 could stop cheering, the Pack was up 35-23.

Soon after, however, something unusual occurred — Gannon missed. Little did anyone know, it would be his first and last err of the day.

Gannon's final statistics were nothing short of remarkable. His eight of nine shots from the field (seven of which were beyond the 19-foot circle and two foul shots tied him with Whittenburg for game-high scoring honors with 25. The pair of free throws upped his consecutive streak to 28 and his charity stripe percentage to 95.7. He later ran that streak to 30.

But, as the Joliet, Ill., native explained later, he was not anticipating such a hot hand against the Deacons.

"It's really ironic," Gannon said. "I wasn't hitting my shots in the pre-game warm-up, and I thought it might be one of those days. But I hit the first one, the adrenaline started flowing, and they just kept going in."

Afterwards, the modest Gannon refused to bask in the glory. Instead, he directed the praise and admiration to the departing seniors.

"We played with a lot of emotion today for the four seniors," Gannon said. "Everyone wanted to go out on a good note for them, and I think that's what carried us today — a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of emotion."

Gannon continued his torrid shooting streak in the ACC Tournament. Against North Carolina in the semifinals, Gannon was almost perfect again. He hit two of three shots from the field, and four of five from the foul line. His missed free throw

ended his consecutive streak at 30 — one short of tying the school record held by (who else?) David Thompson.

In the ACC Tournament, Gannon also took it upon himself to challenge the ACC's most imposing big men — Ralph Sampson and Sam Perkins. And the lightning quick six-footer prevailed against both.

With the Pack trying to protect an 82-76 overtime lead against the Tar Heels, Gannon snuck under the basket and went up to rebound a miss by the Heels. Perkins, somewhat distraught by Gannon's strategic body placement, committed his fourth foul. Seconds later, Gannon started a new free-throw streak by sinking both ends of a one-and-one.

But Gannon saved his best play of the season for the championship game with Virginia. With 35 seconds to go, Sampson was preparing to pull his Cavs to within one point with an apparent stuff. Before the 7-4 center knew what was happening, however, Gannon had stripped him of the ball and was leading a break in the opposite direction. Half a minute later, State had captured its ninth ACC Tournament Championship. Gannon's alert play could very well have been the game-decider.

"He turned and I just stripped the ball," Gannon said. "Maybe I was just too short for him to see me."

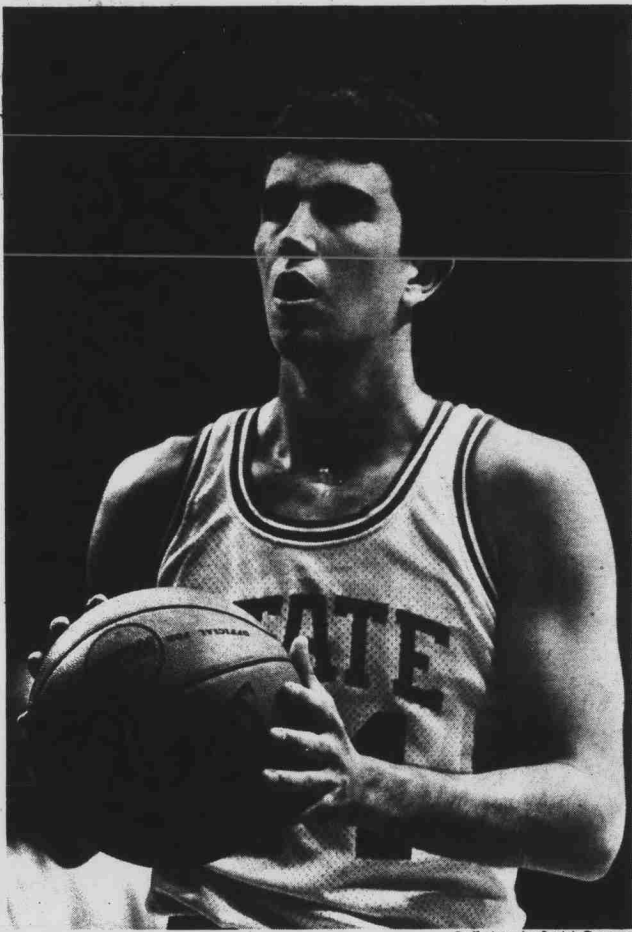
The steal was by no means Gannon's only contribution against the Wahos. He once again burned the nets from long range, hitting four of six three-pointers for 12 points.

"We did not go into the game saying we were going to shoot three-pointers," Gannon said. "Those shots came out of our natural offense."

Gannon's "natural offense" was at its best in the tournament. In the three contests, Gannon hit 87 percent of his three-pointers and totaled 25 points — not bad for a non-starting sophomore. But Gannon realizes his chance in the starting lineup is not far off and is pleased with the role he has played this season.

"It feels great to be playing every game," Gannon said. "And I'm just glad I've been able to come in and hit the shots off the bench."

Somewhat, one would think Gannon could probably hit his shots while sitting on the bench. But he won't have to. State's three-point bomber will likely be seeing very little of the bench for the next two years.



Staff photo by Patrick Chapman

The sports staff of the *Technician* hopes that this special NCAA edition will help commemorate State's 1983 ACC Championship as well as provide some insight into the coming NCAA Tournament. This edition, however, would not have been possible without the help of Assistant Sports Editors Devin Steele and Bruce Winkworth, Production Managers Terry Keever and Annette Rowell, sports writers Tom DeSchriver and Scott Keepler, photographers Greg Hatem and Simon Griffiths, Photo Editor Clayton Brinkley, Assistant Photo Editor Drew Armstrong, layout artist Anne Spake and typesetter Jon Purut. The cover photo was taken by staff photographer Greg Hatem. The staff of the *Technician* wishes both the State men's and the State women's teams the best of luck as they head into post-season play.

— William Terry Kelley

Sports Editor